

1 WE CLAIM:

2 1. A composition comprising:

3 a) a polar solvent; and

4 b) a thickening agent in an amount sufficient to impart to the composition a viscosity

5 of at least 1000 centipoise measured at room temperature, the thickening agent being selected

6 from the group consisting of acrylic acid polymers, polyacrylamides and combinations thereof,

wherein the composition is substantially anhydrous.

7 2. A composition as in claim 1 further comprising a beneficial agent.

8 3. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the thickening agent is selected from the group

9 consisting of acrylic acid polymers.

10 4. A composition as in claim 3 wherein the thickening agent is selected from the group

11 consisting of

12 a) copolymers of C_{10-30} alkyl acrylates with one or more monomers of acrylic acid,

13 methacrylic acid, or one of their C_{1-4} alcohol esters, crosslinked with an allyl ether of sucrose or

14 pentaerythritol;

15 b) polymers of polyacrylic acid crosslinked with from about 0.75% to about 2.0%

16 of polyalkyl sucrose or polyalkyl pentaerythritol

17 c) anionic amphiphilic polymers which comprise 95% to 60% by weight of acrylic

18 recurring structural units, 4% to 40% by weight of acrylate recurring structural units and 0.1% to

19 6% by weight of a crosslinking monomer;

d) polymers which comprise 98% to 96% by weight of acrylic recurring structural units, 1% to 4% by weight of acrylate recurring structural units and 0.1% to 0.6% by weight of a crosslinking monomer; and

e) copolymers of (meth)acrylic acid and of monomers containing at least one fatty chain, the monomers being selected from the group consisting of hydrophobic monomers with a fatty chain, amphiphilic monomers containing a hydrophobic part with a fatty chain and a hydrophilic part and mixtures thereof.

5. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the thickening agent comprises one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of branched or unbranched polyacrylamides and substituted polyacrylamides.

6. A composition as in claim 5 wherein the thickening agent comprises a mixture of polyacrylamide, C₁₃-C₁₄ isoparaffin and Laureth 7.

7. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the thickening agent is present at a level from about 0.05% to about 20% by weight of the composition.

8. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the thickening agent is present at a level from about 0.5% to about 10% by weight of the composition.

9. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the thickening agent is present at a level from about 1% to about 10% by weight of the composition.

10. A composition as in claim 1 having a viscosity greater than about 5,000 cps .

- 1 11. A composition as in claim 1 having a viscosity in the range of from about 1000 to about
2 two million centipoise.
- 3 12. A composition as in claim 1 having a viscosity in the range of from about 10,000 cps to
4 about 1,000,000 cps.
- 5 13. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the polar solvent is a polyol.
- 6 14. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the polar solvent comprises one or more compounds
7 selected from the group consisting of polyhydric alcohols.
- 8 15. A composition as in claim 1 wherein the polar solvent comprises one or more compounds
9 selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, polyethylene glycol
10 and glycerine.
- 11 16. A composition as in claim 1 further comprising one or more optional ingredients selected
12 from the group consisting of alcohol co-solvents, acetone, propylene carbonates, preservatives,
13 emollients, humectants, anti-inflammatory agents, antioxidants, insect repellents or skin cooling
14 compounds.
- 15 17. A composition as in claim 2 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from the group
16 consisting of drug agents, medicaments and vitamins.
- 17 18. A composition as in claim 2 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from the group
18 consisting of erythromycin, clindomycin, cephalosporins, and derivatives or pharmaceutically
19 acceptable salts thereof.

- 1 19. A composition as in claim 2 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from the group
2 consisting of ascorbic acid, derivatives of ascorbic acid, retinoic acid, derivatives of retinoic acid
3 and vitamin E.
- 4 20. A composition as in claim 1 further comprising one or more compounds selected from
5 the group consisting of methylsalicylate and menthol.
- 6 21. A composition as in claim 1 further comprising a detergent.
- 7 22. A composition as in claim 21 wherein the detergent is selected from the group consisting
8 of sodium cocoyl isethionate, acyl glutamate, alphaolefin sulfonates and sarcosynates.
- 9 23. A foaming cleanser composition comprising:
10 a polar solvent;
11 a thickening agent selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid polymers,
12 polyacrylamides and combinations thereof; and
13 a synthetic detergent, the composition being substantially anhydrous.
- 14 24. A foaming cleanser composition as in claim 23 further comprising a beneficial agent.
- 15 25. A foaming cleanser composition as in claim 23 wherein the detergent is selected from the
16 group consisting of sodium cocoyl isethionate, alphaolefin sulfonates, sarcosynates and acyl
17 glutamates.
- 18 26. A foaming cleanser as in claim 24 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from the group
19 consisting of benzoyl peroxide and salicylic acid.